



December 4, 2012

Representative Paul Opsommer, Chair of House Transportation Committee  
Members of the House Transportation Committee:

Re: Testimony on SB 756

On behalf of the City of Sault Ste. Marie, I would like to offer our full support for enacting SB 756, Kelsey's Law. On January 24, 2010 our community faced the tragic loss of 17 year old Kelsey Dawn Raffaele from an automobile accident. It was later determined that Kelsey was using a cell phone while she was driving the vehicle that resulted in an accident resulting in the loss of her life.

Since that time, Kelsey's Mother, Bonnie Raffaele, has been working tirelessly to reduce similar tragedies from happening in communities across the State. We are very proud of Bonnie's effort to use this tragic incident as a catalyst to save other families and communities from facing similar outcomes where inexperienced drivers use cell phones. Through Bonnie's efforts, in conjunction with many others from around the State, the Michigan House of Representatives has the opportunity to make a positive difference. SB 756, as approved by the State Senate, has wide spread support from law enforcement, the insurance industry, the medical community, local governments and parents from across the State.

As you are aware, there are currently restrictions on inexperienced drivers that are widely accepted by both those learning to drive and their families. SB 756 adds one more life safety measure by simply restricting the use of cell phones for this group of drivers. Furthermore, this measure can be done at no cost to the State of Michigan. SB 756 will not place any additional restrictions on experienced drivers.

Please support SB 756. If Kelsey's law prevents even one community from facing the tragic loss of one of our teenage drivers, this Public Act will be well worth the effort.

I am attaching a resolution unanimously adopted by the Sault Ste. Marie City Commission in support of "Kids Driving Responsibly" for your information.

Respectfully submitted,

  
MAYOR ANTHONY G. BOSBOUS